

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-stage process for the treatment of organic waste comprising:

~~One) (a)~~ Drying said waste to reduce ~~the~~ water content to below 15%;

~~Two) (b)~~ Subjecting said dried waste to a thermochemical liquefaction process in the presence of a recirculating solvent medium at a temperature of about 275°C to 375°C and a pressure of up to 10 atmospheres, thereby obtaining gaseous, liquid and solid products;

~~Three) (c)~~ Separating ~~the a~~ formed slurry product from condensable gas, water and other liquid fractions boiling out at up to 250°C;

~~Four) (d)~~ Transferring said slurry product obtained from thermal extraction from step c to a pyrolysis apparatus and treating the same at a temperature of about 350°C to 500°C to cause additional thermal destruction of unconvertible organic matter of feed material and heavy liquid fractions obtained in step c and their evaporation and removal from pyrolysis apparatus;

~~Five) (e)~~ Separating vapor products from condensable oil products;

~~Six) (f)~~ Vacuum distillation of oil products from step a for the removal of fractions having a boiling temperature of between 250°C and 350°C; and

~~Seven) (g)~~ Recirculating a fraction having a boiling temperature of above 300°C as the recirculating solvent medium for step b.

2. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said recirculating solvent medium is in itself a liquid product with a boiling temperature of above 300°C.

1 3. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said
2 recirculating solvent medium serves as a hydrogen donor in step b.

1 4. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said
2 organic waste, is sewage sludge.

1 5. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said waste
2 is dried to reduce the water content to below 12%.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein
2 the ~~ratio of solvent to sewage sludge feed is~~ solvent and dried waste are present in a ratio of
3 between 0.75:1 and 1.5:1.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein
2 the ~~ratio of solvent to sewage sludge feed is~~ solvent and dried waste are present in a ratio of
3 about 1:1.

1 8. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1. wherein step d is
2 carried out at a temperature of about 450°C.

1 9. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein step d is
2 carried out by recirculating a fraction having a boiling temperature of above 350°C as the
3 recirculating solvent medium for step b.